

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PSD ADDS FOURTH PUBLIC HEARING ON VERMONT TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Montpelier, VT – The Department of Public Service has added a fourth public hearing to schedule of comment opportunities on the *Vermont Telecommunications Plan–Public Comment Draft*. The added hearing will be held in Bennington on April 26, from 6-9 p.m. In announcing the hearing, DPS Commissioner David O'Brien said, "We have added this additional hearing to be sure we get full input from the southern part of the state where there are real concerns about access to advanced telecommunications services."

Vermont law requires the Department to develop and periodically revise a telecommunications plan for the state. Key statutory goals include providing the benefits of advances in telecommunications technology to Vermonters, basic service at affordable rates, improved competition among providers, providing for the needs of the state as user of telecommunications services, and the future development of the state. The current draft especially addresses major developments such as the growing importance of broadband and wireless telecommunications service.

Dates and locations of all hearings are as follows:

- # April 13, 7-10 p.m., Burlington, Memorial Auditorium Annex, 250 Main Street
- # April 19, 6-10 p.m. at the Vermont Interactive Television studios in Bennington, Brattleboro, Castleton, Colchester, Johnson, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Newport, Randolph Center, Springfield, St. Albans, Waterbury, and White River Junction.
- # April 21, 7-10 p.m., Rutland, City Hall, 230 Main St., 2nd Floor
- # April 26, 6-9 p.m., Bennington, Free Library, 101 Silver St., 2nd Floor

Copies of the plan or information about the process may be obtained from the Department of Public Service by calling 802-828-2811, via electronic mail to vt dps@state.vt.us, or by writing to the Department of Public Service, 112 State Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-2601. The plan is also available online at www.thinkvermont.com/telecomplan.